



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



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PSC and DNR Push Ahead with Clean Coal Initiative from Governor's Conserve Wisconsin Agenda

*Study Group Members Named;
Public Encouraged to Participate at First Meeting*

MADISON—The Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced the broad stakeholder group that will participate in the agencies' clean coal initiative and set the first meeting date for October 14, 2005. As part of Governor Jim Doyle's Conserve Wisconsin initiative, the group will take a close look at the feasibility of integrated gasification combined-cycle (IGCC) technology for Wisconsin's energy system.

"We face many significant decisions in the next few years about improvements to Wisconsin's energy infrastructure," said PSC Commissioner Mark Meyer. "We've pulled together a diverse group that, with the input of the public, will help us determine whether IGCC is a good option for our energy solutions."

Members of the workgroup represent a broad spectrum of organizations including environmental and customer groups, electricity providers, research institutions and labor. The public is also encouraged to participate in the study group's activities.

At the first meeting of the IGCC workgroup, DNR Air & Waste Administrator Al Shea said they plan to begin exploring questions about the technology's engineering, cost, environmental performance and policy implications. "We plan to investigate the costs and benefits of IGCC technology during the course of this study and summarize our results for the Governor next spring," Shea said.

Meyer and Shea applauded the Governor for calling for the study as part of his Conserve Wisconsin package. The Governor set three main areas of focus in his agenda to safeguard Wisconsin's great environmental legacy: protecting Wisconsin's waters, conserving Wisconsin's lands and ensuring a sustainable energy future.

IGCC technology uses intense pressure and heat to convert coal into gas. The gas goes through a cleaning process and is then burned in a combined cycle gas turbine to generate electricity. Air emissions from the new technology are significantly lower than current coal-generation technologies although questions remain about its cost and reliability.

The meeting will be held at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, from 10:00 to Noon on Friday, October 14, 2005.

For more information about the study group's schedule of meetings and activities, go to:
<http://psc.wi.gov/CleanCoal/index-cleanCoal.htm>.

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